

# **REMARKS**

By this Amendment, claims 2-9, 11 and 40-42 are canceled and claims 10, 12-14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 23, 31, 34 and 38 are amended. Claims 1 and 37 were previously canceled. Claims 22, 25, 28 and 36 were previously amended. Claims 15, 18, 19, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35 and 39 remain as originally filed. As a result, claims 10, 12-36, 38 and 39 are currently pending in the application. Claims 22 stands allowed. Claims 10, 23, 31 and 34 are amended to include the patentable limitation of allowed claim 22. Claims 12-14, 16, and 21 are amended to correct dependency. Claims 17 and 20 are amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Claim 38 is amended to correct dependency and to provide proper antecedent basis.

## **Restriction**

Pursuant to paragraph 1 of the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner has made the restriction requirement final.

## **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102**

Pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 10 and 23-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,588,866 (Monti). The Examiner asserts that Monti identically discloses each and every one of the limitations recited in the rejected claims. See Office Action at pages 2-5.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as applied to the amended claims presented herein. Independent claims 10, 23, 31 and 34 have been amended to include the patentable limitation of allowed claim 22; namely, that the cover has at least one viewing window for viewing the mounting stud of the wall plate. Thus, base claims 10, 23, 31 and 34 are patentable. Claims 24-30 depend directly or indirectly from patentable base claim 23. Claims 32 and 33 depend directly or indirectly from patentable base claim 31. Claims 35 and 36 depend directly or indirectly from patentable base claim 34. Therefore, dependent claims 24-30, 32, 33, 35 and 36 are

likewise allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 10 and 23-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,186,826 (Weikle). The Examiner asserts that Weikle identically discloses each and every one of the limitations recited in the rejected claims. See Office Action at page 5.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. As discussed above, independent claim 34 is amended to include the patentable limitation of allowed claim 22. Thus, claim 34 is patentable. Claim 35 depends directly from patentable base claim 34, and thus, is likewise allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 23-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

#### Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 10, 31-33, 23-27 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weikle in view of Monti for the reasons stated on pages 6-9 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. As discussed above, independent claims 10, 23, 31 and 34 are amended to include the patentable limitation of allowed claim 22. Thus, claims 10, 23, 31 and 34 are patentable. Claims 32 and 33 depend directly or indirectly from patentable base claim 31, and thus, are likewise allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 24-27 depend directly or indirectly from patentable base claim 23, and thus, are likewise allowable for at least the same reasons. Claim 36 depends directly or indirectly from patentable base claim 34, and thus, is likewise allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 10, 31-33, 23-27 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for at least the reasons stated hereinabove.

Claims 2-9, 11-21 and 38-42 were previously withdrawn from further consideration in response to the restriction requirement. Claims 2-9, 11 and 40-42 are canceled by this Amendment. Claims 12-21 have been amended as necessary to depend directly or indirectly from patentable base claim 10, and thus, are likewise allowable or at least the same reasons. Claims 38 and 39 have been amended as necessary to depend directly or indirectly from patentable base claim 34, and thus, are likewise allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the pending claims 10, 12-36, 38 and 39 are patentable and respectfully request the Examiner to issue a notice of allowance for the pending claims.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to the claims and to allow the application.

This Amendment AFTER FINAL is fully responsive to the Office Action and does not introduce new claims or raise new issues for consideration that would require a further search of the prior art. Accordingly, this Amendment AFTER FINAL places the application in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowability for the pending claims. Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned directly to further the prosecution of any remaining issues, and thereby expedite allowance of the application.

This Amendment does not result in more independent or total claims than paid for previously. Accordingly, **no fee for excess claims is believed to be due with the filing of this response.** The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fee due in connection with the filing of this response, including any excess claims fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not already accounted for, such an extension is requested and the fee should likewise be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2167. Any overpayment should be credited to Deposit Account No. 19-2167.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher C. Dremann, Reg. No. 36,504  
Attorney for Applicants  
P. O. Box 489  
Hickory, N. C. 28603  
Telephone: 828/901-5904  
Facsimile: 828/901-5206

**Dated: September 1, 2004**